

Message Text

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20

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 SSC-01 OMB-01 GAC-01 RSR-01 /114 W
----- 124726

R 051415 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1479

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KAMPALA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 2199

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINR, KE

SUBJ: CABINET CHANGES

1. SUMMARY; TWO MINISTERS SWAPPED PORTFOLIOS AND TWO MP' S WERE ELEVATED TO ASSISTANT MINISTERSHIPS IN AN UNEXPECTED CABINET SHUFFLE ANNOUNCED APRIL 4.

2. PRESIDENT KENYATTA ON APRIL 4 UNEXPECTEDLY ANNOUNCED A CABINET RESHUFFLE (THE SECOND IN 1973) IN WHICH TWO MINISTERS, JULIUS KIANO AND JAMES OSOGO, SWAPPED PORTFOWIOS, WITH FORMER TAKING COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (POST HE HAD HELD FROM 1963 TO 1965) AND LATTER LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

3. PRESIDENT ALSO NAMED ABDI HIRSI, MP FROM WAJIR SOUTH, TO BE ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR HOUSING (REPLACING S. K. KHALIF, A FELLOW SOMALI NOW SERVING PRISON TERM) AND STEPHEN OLE LSKEN, NOMINATED MEMBER FROM KAJIADO (AND 1972 U. S. LEADER GRANTEE), TO BE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION IN EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY (EAC). FORMER EAC DEPUTY MINISTER GIDEON KALYA MOVED TO AGRICULTURE AS THAT MINISTRY' S THIRD ASSISTANT MINISTER.

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4. COMMENT: ANNOUNCEMENT TYPICAL OF KENYATTA' S TENDENCY TO PLJCE DOMESTIC CONSIDERATIONS AHEAD OF KENYA' S INTERNATIONAL IMAGE, FOR IT WAS MADE ONE DAY WHEN OSOGO BUSY GREETING AFRICAN COMMONWEALTH COLLEAGUES ARRIVING FOR CONFERENCE ON EEC ASSOCIATION AND OTHER TRADE QUESTIONS. ONE EMBASSY SOURCE SEES KIANO' S RETURN TO COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AS MOVE BY KIKUYU TO GET ONE OF THEIR OWN BACK INTO POTENTIALLY LUCRATIVE BUSINESS OF AWARDING TRADE LICENSES AND SITESSFOR INDUSTRIAL INVESTORS AND AT SAME TIME REMOVE HIM FROM THE CONTROVERSY SURROUNDING NAIROBI CITY COUNCIL' S RECENT DECISION TO RAISE RENTS ON COUNCIL HOUSING. OSOGO, AN ABALUHYA, REPORTEDLY NOT TAKING KICKBACKS EXPECTED BY ESTABLISHMENT AND ALSO UNDER CRITICISM FOR NOT PUSHING AFRICANIZATION HARDER.
LINDSTROM

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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